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ARRL to Participate in National Preparedness Month

During September, the ARRL will be among dozens of organizations and agencies participating in National Preparedness Month. "The Ready Campaign," produced by the Ad Council in partnership with the US Department of Homeland Security ([DHS](#)), is aimed at making citizen preparedness "a priority for every city, every neighborhood and every home" in the US. The League will combine its role in National Preparedness Month, which starts September 9, with its own "Amateur Radio Awareness Day" on September 18.

"The two events offer great opportunities for Amateur Radio to showcase its valued service to the nation," said ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO. She encouraged ARRL-affiliated clubs and Field Organization volunteers to take advantage of the occasion to set up public demonstrations of Amateur Radio and to present or even demonstrate--under the banner of National Preparedness Month--the free services Amateur Radio can provide to the community.

This is also an excellent opportunity to recruit prospective hams for licensing classes that clubs may be forming for the fall," Fusaro added. In addition, ARRL encourages all Amateur Radio operators to have a family emergency communication plan in place in case of an emergency, such as a severe weather event. "Get Ready Now" brochures are available. Visit the [Ready.gov](#) Web site for more information.

On Amateur Radio Awareness Day, September 18, W1AW/90 will be on the air from 10 AM until 10 PM Eastern Time with ARRL staff members, new Section Managers in town for the annual Section Managers' Workshop and volunteers from the Newington Amateur Radio League as operators. White encourages amateur groups to invite public officials, representatives of served agencies and first responders to visit their public displays to discuss plans for their Simulated Emergency Test ([SET](#)), typically in early October, or other drills.

Some clubs already have jumped on the National Preparedness Month/Amateur Radio Awareness Day bandwagon, Fusaro notes--in some cases by taking advantage of already scheduled events during September.

The [Middletown Amateur Radio Club](#)--W2MAR--in New Jersey will take part in Middletown Day activities September 18 with a public ham radio display featuring HF, VHF and UHF operation, an information table, traffic handling and displays on the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). The club expects some 3000 visitors in town, including state and local officials.

Also in New Jersey, the [New Providence Amateur Radio Club](#) will be assisting in the Berkeley Heights 5K Run on September 19, an annual event the club uses as an emergency response practice run on VHF and UHF frequencies. The club will have a station in operation on HF, VHF and UHF as well as an information table and traffic handling. This year, the club will be testing out its new mobile crossband repeater system, which it hopes will fill in some communication holes in the rather hilly town.

In Illinois, Amateur Radio Awareness Day falls on the same weekend as the three-day [Peoria Superfest 2004](#) Amateur Radio and computer show. The [Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club](#) will have an all-day demonstration at the Exposition Garden Fairgrounds on September 18 to include an HF, VHF and UHF station, information table, traffic handling and other activities.

On the West Coast, the [Space Park Employees Association Amateur Radio Club](#) (W6TRW) in Redondo Beach, California, will have its emergency communications team (ECT) van at the Northrop Grumman Space Technology open house September 18 all day. The occasion will include tours of the ECT van along with amateur television (ATV) demonstrations, an information table and, of course, club applications.

In addition, several clubs throughout Southern California will be assisting in the [Angeles Crest 100 Mile Endurance Run](#), which begins September 18. Participating clubs include The Pasadena Radio Club, the Jet Propulsion Lab Amateur Radio Club and the Western Amateur Radio Club. The Amateur Radio volunteers provide safety communication and runner data during the event using VHF FM voice and packet.

The ARRL has printed materials available for ARRL-affiliated clubs, ARES groups and others to use for public exhibits and ham radio demonstrations. [Brochures](#) may be downloaded free of charge from the ARRL Web site. For a small shipping fee, exhibit kits also are available. Contact Linda Mullally, KB1HSV, lmullally@arrl.org to order.

The Ready Campaign to engage Americans in emergency preparedness will kick off September 9 at the US Capitol. Co-chairs are US Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT), and US Representatives Christopher Cox (R-CA) and Jane Harman (D-CA).

"We really hope that Amateur Radio groups will take advantage of the opportunity to get out into the community for National Preparedness Month and Amateur Radio Awareness Day," White said. The League has a [sample news release](#) available that clubs and groups can customize to help spread the word. More information about National Preparedness Month or Amateur Radio demonstrations in general is available from [ARRL](#).

From the Program Coordinator's Desk by Gary Zulinski

The National Citizen Corps Conference was recently held in Denver, Colorado. It was three days of

workshops and networking to discuss strategies for 2005 and beyond.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) hosted the conference July 27 – 29, 2004. Attendees shared best practices and critiqued implementation strategies as well as heard from subject matter experts from the programs highlighted by the Citizen Corps Initiative, including an overview of the newest Citizen Corps program, FireCorps. Sessions included engaging the private sector, handling the media, and reaching minority and special needs populations.

Michigan is now 12th in the nation for having the most councils and percentage of the state population served by those councils. There are 42 Councils serving 67% of the state population.

The CERT program is transitioning from FEMA to Office of Domestic Preparedness. Major league sports have been approached to endorse CERT. I have made contact with the security chiefs' of Comerica and Ford Field and both are interested in the CERT training for the event staff.

Citizen Corps Its for Kids too!

After the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, many Americans asked what they could do to make their communities safer. People really wanted to volunteer and to work together with their neighbors. President Bush created Citizen Corps and encouraged all Americans to volunteer their time to help others.

How does this work? There are four Citizen Corps programs:

Neighborhood Watch;
Volunteers in Police Service
Community Emergency Response Teams; and
The Medical Reserve Corps.

The Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) is overseen Office of state and local preparedness. These very special teams are trained to help first responders in an emergency. What does that mean? In a large emergency, emergency responders such as firefighters will be very busy. They will not be able to help all the people who might need help. This is where CERT comes in. These

special teams are trained to help out. They can do basic first aid; help with evacuations and other duties that are very important in an emergency.

CERT volunteers may also help a community get prepared (find out more at <http://www.fema.gov/kids/ready.htm>). They might help people learn what supplies they need on hand in case of a disaster and how to create a family communication plan.

Does your community have CERT? Find out in the CERT Directory.

There are many partners in Citizen Corps, including the American Red Cross, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools within Department of Education, National Safety Council, Points of Light Foundation, National Fire Protection Association, Save A Life Foundation and the U.S. Junior Chamber. Wow! That's a lot of partners.

So what can you do? First off, be sure your family is prepared. Then talk to your teacher about school preparedness. Then, find out if there is CERT in your community. Even youngsters can learn basic first aid or help with providing information to a community. The bottom line is this: Get Involved!

To find out more about Citizen Corps and CERT, go to www.citizencorps.gov.

Oakland Enlists Citizens For Disaster Aid **County seeks 500 for training to aid emergency workers**

By Mike Martindale / The Detroit News

Natural disasters like Florida's recent Hurricane Charley underscore the need for having residents trained in emergency response and the ability to come to the aid of family members and neighbors.

Police, fire and EMS workers are often overwhelmed by the number of people needing help when disaster hits and response time can be critical. With that in mind, the Oakland County Citizens Corps Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program offers average residents skills to provide first aid or fight fires during disasters, be they natural or man-made.

"Our first responders — police and firefighters — have extensive training to cover a wide range of emergencies, from tornadoes to terrorists," said Mike Loper, emergency management specialist and the coordinator for the Oakland County Citizen Corps.

"But what about when they aren't available or have more than they can handle? That's when the average citizen can play a very important role."

The program, funded by \$80,000 in U.S. Department of Homeland Security grants, seeks to train 500 citizens in Oakland County over the next year. There are currently 40 members of the Civil Air Patrol, including cadets as young as 12 years old.

Loper said classes cover subjects such as disaster preparedness, search and rescue and terrorism, and will eventually focus on people age 16 and older. But it is tailor-made for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and its young cadets, who have proven to be an emergency management system asset "for years."

Almost all attendees at a recent Tuesday night class on fire safety were from the Civil Air Patrol's Oakland County Composite Squadron, based at Oakland International Airport.

"The civil air patrol has been used in national emergencies or to help when a plane goes down somewhere in the woods," he said. "They were very involved in the Utah Olympics and helped patrol the sky over Philadelphia and New York City and report suspicious aircraft after September 11."

Vincent Gray, 40, a Blue Cross/Blue Shield manager from Waterford Township, is a captain in the Oakland County Composite Squadron. He joined because of his love of flying, and said emergency training adds an extra dimension to his desire to give back to the community.

"You can sit around and watch TV or you can commit yourself to something that can help your community," Gray said.

And that's apparently what drives many of the more than two dozen young air patrol cadets, all with varying interests.

Geoff Gloceri, 14, a West Bloomfield High freshman, seeks certified training to search for downed aircraft or missing persons. Andrew Linn, a 17-year-old

Rochester Hills Stoney Creek High senior, is interested in a public safety career and may enlist in the Air Force or Army. Jeff Lucas, 19, of West Bloomfield Township, is attending Oakland Community College studying computer information systems.

Katie Broyles, a 14-year-old Waterford Kettering sophomore, hopes to go to the Air Force Academy and the Air Force. She became interested in CAP three years ago when she saw people not much older than her helping out at an Air Show. Katie's interest and dedication prompted her mother, Nancy Broyles, a 42-year-old DaimlerChrysler trainer, to also join.

"My daughter and a lot of other kids are very patriotic and they just want a venue to help out their community," said Nancy Broyles. "I'm proud of them." Loper said Farmington Hills, Rochester Hills, Southfield, Pontiac, Walled Lake and West Bloomfield Township have their own grants and programs. Others are in planning stages in Madison Heights, Royal Oak and Waterford Township.

To become a member of the Oakland County group, applicants must live or work in the county. All applicants are subject to a law enforcement background check and must complete 20 hours of instruction, normally in eight separate classes held on weeknights or on weekends.

Classes can be adjusted for regions, such as paying special attention to earthquakes in California or hurricanes in Florida, Loper said.

While Michigan has been spared such horrific natural disasters, it doesn't mean a tornado or killer blizzard can't strike again or even a massive power failure like the one that blacked out the region in August 2003, Loper said.

"It's like all hazard preparedness," Loper said. "If you are prepared for this, you're more prepared for a blackout. How to have drinking water. The need to check on elderly neighbors. Family members having their own survival plan in case of a fire."

Disaster Mitigation for Persons with Disabilities

For the 54 million Americans with disabilities, and millions of others around the world, surviving a disaster can be the beginning of a greater struggle. Whether an individual with a disability requires electricity to power a respirator, life-sustaining medication, mobility assistance, or post disaster recovery services, relief organizations and rescue personnel increasingly must be prepared to address the needs of that individual in the hours and days following a disaster.

Similarly, efforts to accommodate disabled Americans frequently ignore disaster preparedness and response. As a result, too few disaster response officials are trained to deal effectively with people with disabilities, and too few disabled Americans have the knowledge that could help them save their own lives.

Seven key principles should guide disaster relief:

1. Accessible Disaster Facilities and Services:

Communications technology is vital for people with disabilities during a disaster to help assess damage, collect information, and deploy supplies. Access to appropriate facilities -- housing, beds, toilets, and other necessities -- must be monitored and made available to individuals with disabilities before, during, and after a disaster. This access also must be ensured for those who incur a disability as a result of a disaster. Appropriate planning and management of information related to architectural accessibility improves the provision of disaster services for persons with disabilities.

2. Accessible Communications and Assistance:

As communications technology and policy become more integral to disaster relief and mitigation, providing accessibility to the technology for people with disabilities becomes more essential. For example, people with hearing impairments require interpreters, TDD communications, and signaling devices. In addition, written materials must be produced on cassette tape, on CD-ROM, or in large print for people with visual impairments. People with cognitive impairments, such as those with developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's disease, or brain injury, require assistance to cope with new surroundings and to minimize confusion factors. It is

crucial that people with disabilities help develop accessible communications and reliable assistance technologies.

3. Accessible and Reliable Rescue Communications:

Accessible and reliable communications technology is critical to ensuring fast, effective, and competent field treatment of people with disabilities. Current satellite and cellular technology as well as personal communication networks permit communication in areas with a damaged or destroyed communication infrastructure. Communications technologies can assist field personnel in rescue coordination and tracking and can be combined with databases that house information on optimal treatment for particular disabilities or that track the allocation of post disaster resources.

4. Partnerships with the Disability Community:

Disability organizations must join with relief and rescue organizations and the media to educate and inform their constituents of disaster contingency and self-help plans. A nationwide awareness effort should be devised and implemented to inform people with disabilities about necessary precautions for imminent disaster. In the event of a sudden natural disaster, such a program would minimize injury and facilitate rescue efforts. In addition, more young people with disabilities should be encouraged to study technology, medicine, science, and engineering as a way of gaining power over future technological advances in disaster relief and mitigation.

5. Disaster Preparation, Education, and Training:

Communications technologies are crucial for educating the public about disaster preparedness and warning the people most likely to be affected. Relief and rescue operations must have the appropriate medical equipment, supplies, and training to address the immediate needs of people with disabilities. Affected individuals may require bladder bags, insulin pumps, walkers, or wheelchairs. Relief personnel must be equipped and trained in the use of such equipment. In addition, relief personnel should provide training, particularly for personnel and volunteers in the field, on how to support the independence and dignity of persons with disabilities in the aftermath of a disaster.

6. Partnerships with the Media:

Many natural disasters can be predicted in advance. Disaster preparedness for people with disabilities is critical in minimizing the impact of a disaster. The media -- in partnership with disability and governmental organizations -- should incorporate advisories into emergency broadcasts in formats accessible to people with disabilities. Such advisories alert the public, provide a mechanism for informing rescue personnel of individual medical conditions and impairments, and identify accessible emergency shelters. The creation and repetition of accessible media messages is critical for empowering people with disabilities to protect themselves from disasters.

7. Universal Design and Implementation Strategies:

Designing universal access into disaster relief plans, far from being a costly proposition, can pay off handsomely. As accessible communications tools become more widely available, their price will decrease. In addition, a universal design approach to meeting the needs of people with disabilities before and after a disaster will benefit many people without disabilities, such as the very young or the aged. A look at existing agreements among relief organizations and local, state, federal, and international governments will offer guidance in developing effective strategies for universal design and implementation plans. The federal government's role has yet to be defined, but it could encourage or even mandate universal design and set standards. For example, the federal government could provide guidelines for evacuation plans or pre-disaster warning periods.

From a report by The Annenberg Washington Program written in collaboration with the President's Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities by [Dr. Peter David Blanck](#), Annenberg Senior Fellow.

For more information about Michigan Citizen Corps, contact the Program Coordinator, Gary Zulinski at (517) 241-3867 or zulinskig@michigan.gov.

***We all have a role
in Hometown Security***

**Citizen Corps asks you to embrace the personal responsibility to be prepared;
to get training in first aid and emergency skills;
and to volunteer to support local emergency responders, disaster relief, and community safety**